



BLM AT WORK IN ARIZONA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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BLM

At Work

In Arizona

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1961



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE STATE DIRECTOR
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Foreword

As a member of the conservation team of the United States Department of the Interior, The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the conservation, management, and development of some 477 million acres of the Nation's public lands. This includes 168 million acres of national land reserve in 27 states, 13 million of it in Arizona, and some 309 million acres of other Federal lands, most of it in Alaska. The Bureau also administers mining and mineral leasing on other Federal lands, on former Federal lands where minerals have been reserved in public ownership, and on submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf.

In recent months there has been increased emphasis on multiple use of these lands. Programs have been strengthened by an 18-month moratorium on new filings for transfer of public lands to private title. During the moratorium, the BLM is making an intensified classification of public lands and reducing a backlog of filings. A new pricing schedule on recreation sites has stirred county and city interest, especially in Arizona, in acquiring park and other recreation sites.

A change from area-wide organization to State-level organization is resulting in better service and opportunities for cooperation. Cooperation is playing an important role in the invigorated program in the State. It has enhanced wildlife and hunting programs, it has advanced access into recreation areas, and it has been important in range and watershed improvement efforts.

Should you want information not found in the following pages or should you have questions, the BLM will always welcome your inquiries.



MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS
of the
NATIONAL LAND RESERVE



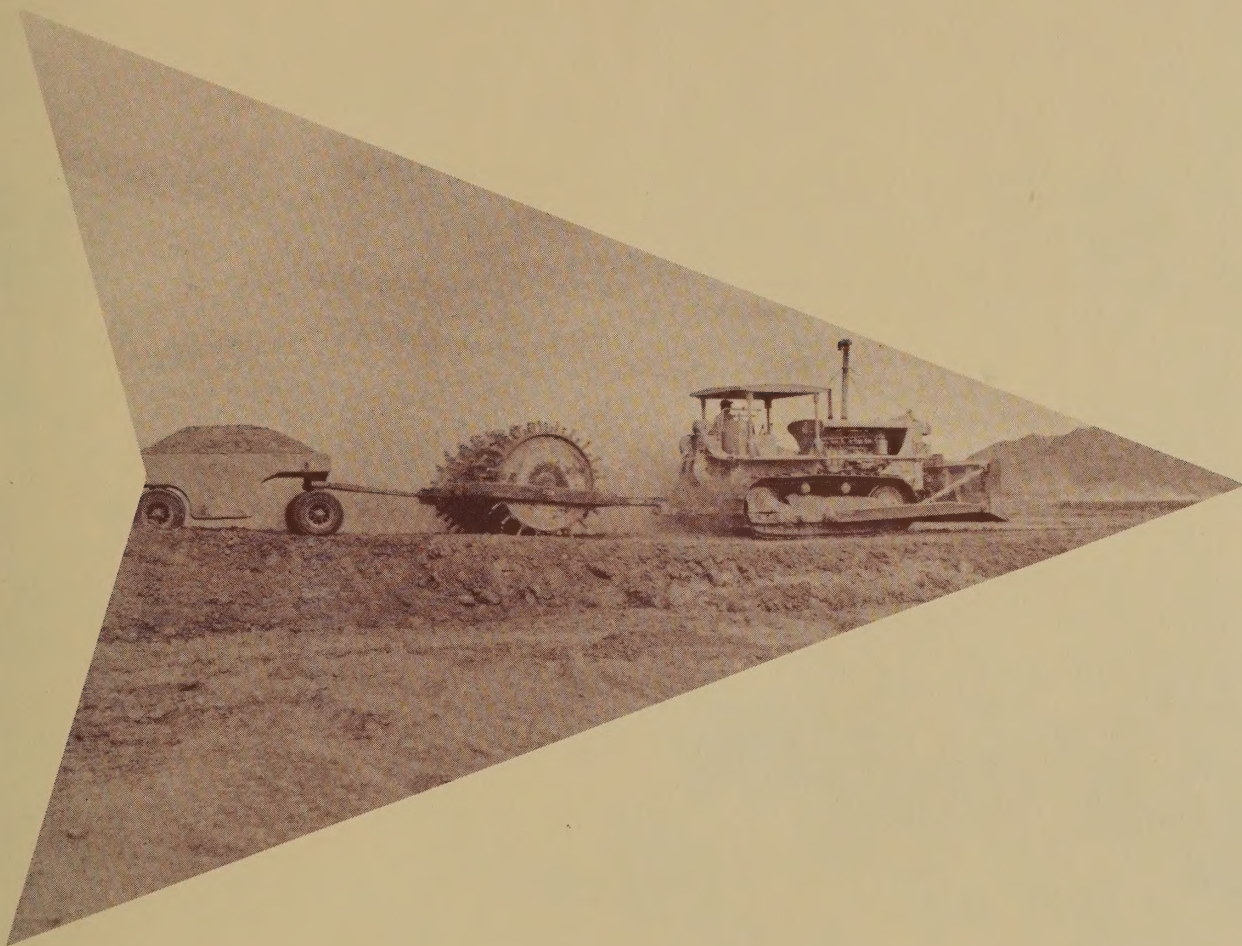
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



INDIAN RESERVATION



NATIONAL FOREST



Range



and Forestry



Range and forest management are vital functions of the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona. Federal rangelands still bear many scars caused during years of unregulated grazing. The goal of the Division of Range & Forest Management is to develop and improve these millions of acres in the national land reserve to their highest productivity and to establish a program of balanced use. Responsibility for all range management functions is centered in grazing district offices in Phoenix, Safford, and St. George, Utah.

Grazing

Because of climate and the character of the land, Federal range in Arizona is mainly suited for grazing. The range lies across desert valleys, plateaus broken by rough canyons, and rugged mountain ranges. Very little is suited for crops but nearly all of it, at some season of the year, grows forage plants that support livestock and wildlife.

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 is the basic legislative authority governing the management and protection of the 13 million acres of vacant, unreserved public land in Arizona. It is considered one of the major conservation laws of the nation. One of the important provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act was the authority to establish grazing districts where there were large blocks of Federal land. Within such grazing districts provision was made for the issu-

ance of permits to qualified applicants to graze livestock in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. Provision was also made for the issuance of grazing leases on the scattered tracts of Federal land not included in grazing districts. The national land reserve in Arizona includes four grazing districts with a combined acreage of approximately 11½ million acres. During the past year, licenses or permits were issued to 542 livestock operators for 114,000 head of cattle and horses and 64,000 head of sheep. In addition, 570 livestock operators paid grazing lease fees on approximately 1½ million acres of scattered tracts in 14 counties.

The first essential steps for proper management of the Federal range were to determine the qualified demand for livestock use and to establish the grazing capacity of the range. Licenses or permits were issued to the extent of the grazing capacity. Adjustments and reductions in livestock were required. These adjustments, together with improved management practices, resulted in positive improvement over

Scenes of the Old West endure in Arizona. Managing and improving public domain lands so that such scenes can continue is one of the jobs of the Bureau of Land Management.





Under careful management, Arizona's deserts furnish important winter sheep grazing and spring lambing range. Some ranges host increasing numbers of wildlife, and the American pronghorn antelope is being returned to lands from which he has been absent for half a century.

a large part of the public range. Supervision to insure that livestock is grazed only during the proper season and is properly distributed over the range is a continuing activity. Range management specialists make range resource surveys which provide the basic information for management of grazing lands. In addition, they make range condition and trend studies which are used in analyzing the effectiveness of the management programs. Surveys and studies were conducted on over 2 million acres of national land reserve rangeland in Arizona the past year.

Experience has proved that much of the depleted range in the national land reserve cannot be brought back to maximum production by management alone. Cooperative effort and substantial investments of Federal as well as private funds are required to re-establish a desirable plant cover on critical areas. BLM conservation and range improvement programs are multi-purpose in scope. Besides directly benefiting the land, they help to stabilize and strengthen the local economy which depends on the use of these Federal lands.

Range Management personnel are vitally concerned with the forage and habitat needs of wildlife. Proper balance between use by wildlife and domestic livestock and with other uses requires careful consideration and judgment. Conflicts in multiple

use are rapidly being resolved through close working relations between the Bureau of Land Management, the State Game & Fish Department, and others who have interests in the public lands. An example is the recent agreement between the Bureau and the State Game & Fish Commission which provides for the re-introduction of antelope to the Arizona Strip.

It is estimated that during the past year over 50,000 big game animals used Federal range in Arizona all or a part of the year. The desert mountain ranges in the western parts of the Kingman and Phoenix districts are home for almost all of Arizona's rare Desert Bighorn sheep. In addition, these lands support large numbers of upland birds and other wildlife. Watering places developed by the Bureau of Land Management and grazing permittees have provided new habitat and better distribution of game animals. The many reservoirs and waterspreading systems also provide resting places for migrating waterfowl.

The Taylor Grazing Act provides that the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management will remain open to hunting and fishing. Where public land is surrounded by privately owned land or where the only access is from roads traversing privately owned lands, problems occasionally occur. In almost all cases, however, the Bureau has been able to provide satisfactory access through cooperative arrangements with private land owners. The Bureau's fire- and service-road programs have also assisted in providing improved access to the more remote blocks of public land.





The nation can no longer afford the destruction caused by carelessness. The problems here included severe and active

erosion, naked ranges, a dwindling water table and downstream flooding.

Range Improvement

Many of the 13 million acres of the national land reserve in Arizona suffer from varying degrees of erosion. Erosion processes have been speeded up by removal or change in the original plant cover as a result of overgrazing, fire, weather, or other causes. The BLM range conservation and improvement program is directed to restoring adequate vegetation on deteriorated ranges. Plant cover absorbs the force of falling rain, slows runoff, reduces wind and water erosion, increases infiltration and furnishes organic matter to enrich the soil.

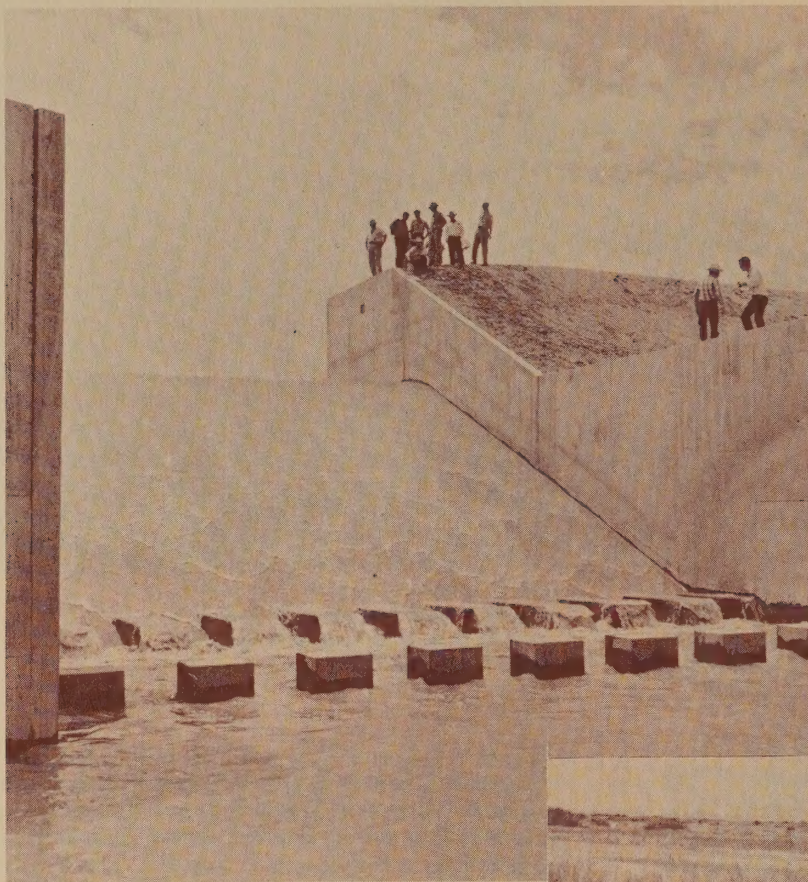
Average precipitation on the national land reserve in Arizona varies from four to twenty inches a year. Most of these lands receive ten inches or less. The rains fall in erratic patterns, ranging from long periods of drought to storms of exceedingly high intensity. Work on the watersheds is geared to cope with these conditions. Detention or diversion structures are built to reduce the destructive force of wild water and to take the peak off of flood crests. These waters are released by controlled flow to water-spreading areas or to the original channel for the benefit of downstream users. Occasionally, larger drainages require different treatment. Where large floods are the rule, water is controlled by release through a concrete drop spillway rather than through pipes or "weeps." An example is the "fan" structure on the San Simon wash in southeastern Arizona. The Bureau of Land Man-

agement has built 68 detention or diversion dams, and over 320,000 lineal feet of diversion dikes in its water control program in Arizona.

Another approach to improving damaged rangeland is to increase grass by removing undesirable competing plants such as sagebrush, juniper and black brush. Often there are enough remnants of native grass to restore grass cover once the competing vegetation is removed. On some ranges the grass cover has been reduced to the point that natural revegetation is not possible. Here brush is removed by mechanical

Earthfill dams, such as this one on the Upper Centennial Wash, serve to control stream flow, spread floodwaters and curtail erosion. Metal or concrete pipe outlets can handle the smaller flows.





The treatment on the San Simon Wash included this reinforced concrete drop structure of a type often necessary on larger tributaries. This one is forty feet wide and is designed to release 2,400 second-feet of floodwater.



The result is good. Stewardship in action has reduced erosion, stabilized the stream channel, raised the water table. There is increased forage for livestock and better food and cover for wildlife.

The range to the right of the fence has been rehabilitated. Brush removal, pitting and seeding are some of the methods used. Fences are often necessary to good range management. The Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with private ranchers, has built 4,700 miles of range division fence.



This stockwater pond was built to catch and hold natural runoff. Such ponds also provide water for big game and birds, and furnish resting places for migratory waterfowl.

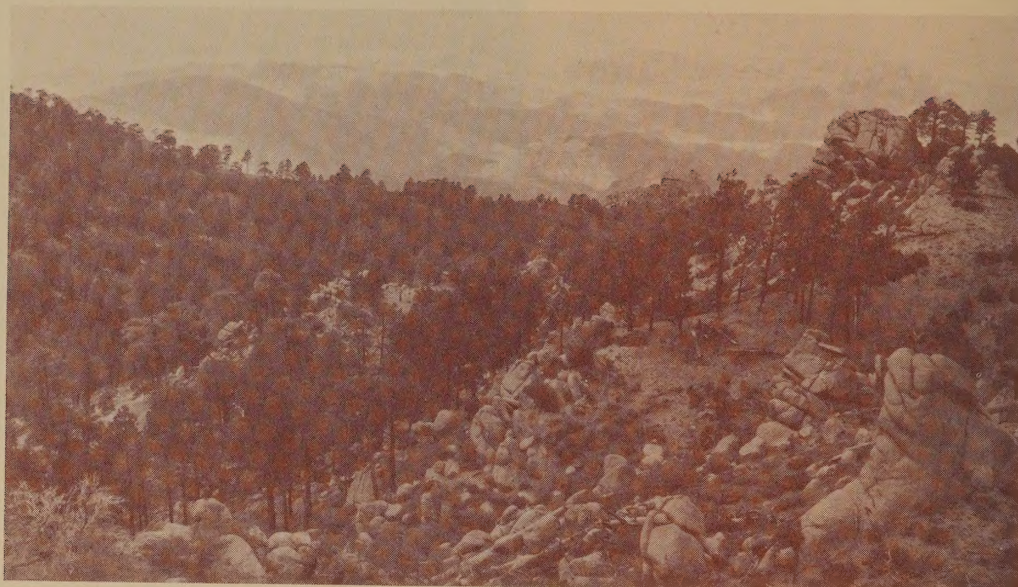


means and the land is seeded with suitable grass species. Over 122,000 acres of the national land reserve in Arizona have been improved by brush removal or a combination of brush removal and seeding.

The Bureau of Land Management is cooperating with the University of Arizona in research on new methods of seeding semi-arid rangeland. These studies include aerial dissemination of grass seed. Some of the seeds are encased in earthen pellets. Various species of grasses that have shown promise for range use are being tested. Seed bed preparation, planting depths, compacting, soil types, planting equipment, weather and other factors that may influence economical and successful seeding operations are included in the studies.

"Good fences make good neighbors" is an accepted axiom. Of greater significance, good fences control livestock drift and prevent concentration and overgrazing. Fencing is one of the most important tools used in range rehabilitation. BLM or its permittees have constructed 4,700 miles of fence on the national land reserve. This represents enough material to fence both sides of a highway from Phoenix to Miami, Florida.

Adequate livestock water is the key to successful livestock operations on Arizona rangelands. Most waters have to be developed by stockmen in order to make proper use of the range. Grazing privileges are allotted on the basis of ownership or control of livestock water. Two hundred and fifteen miles of pipeline, 785 stock water reservoirs, and 395 wells, most of which have been developed by the grazing permittees and lessees, are located on the national land reserve.



The wealth of the earth is not all in material things. The small, scattered stands of timber on BLM lands in Arizona often have primary values as pleasant places.

Forestry

Areas of forest and wooded lands are scattered throughout the Arizona Strip District and the Kingman District of the national land reserve in Arizona. Woodlands and forests are classed separately. The woodlands include about 1½ million acres composed mainly of pinon pine and juniper. The forest lands consist of about 7,700 acres of isolated stands of ponderosa pine, most of which are in the Arizona Strip District.

Of the forest lands, about 4,200 acres are considered to have either present or future value commercially. Because of the small acreage and volume, a program of sustained yield is not possible. Isolated stands in the high desert mountains have high scenic value, however, and will be retained in public ownership to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for picnic and camp sites and other forms of recreation.

The principal objective of the program for the woodlands is the orderly harvesting of woodland products. With few exceptions, sales are to local residents and ranchers. Woodland products include fence posts and stays, fuel wood and Christmas trees. Most sales are made to local residents and small business establishments. Local residents

may also get free use permits for limited quantities of fuel wood and other woodland products.

Fire Protection

BLM is responsible for fire protection on the 13 million acres of Federal land in Arizona. In addition, many intermingled tracts of State and private land are also a source of fire danger and must be included in the protection program.

Wild fires destroy plant cover on thousands of acres of range and forest lands each year. To keep fire losses at a minimum, the Bureau of Land Management has undertaken a program of fire prevention and suppression which ranges from public education to modern fire suppression techniques. As an aid in analyzing fire weather conditions and to determine manpower needs, the Bureau operates two fire weather stations, one at Safford and one at Kingman. During the past year the 44 fires occurring on Federal lands burned a total of 3,100 acres. Suppression cost was held to a low of \$22,000.

The majority of fires on the national land reserve in Arizona are range fires which occur on both flat grassland and in relatively inaccessible mountain chaparral

areas. Fire fighting on the more easily reached rangeland is done with hand tools and heavy equipment such as pumper trucks and bulldozers. In mountain country which can't be reached by such equipment, the Bureau of Land Management must often call in trained Indian fire fighters who are noted for their endurance and fire-fighting skill. Under severe conditions, air drops of chemical fire retardants are used to slow down the fire until ground crews can reach it.

On BLM lands adjacent to National Parks and National Forests, cooperative agreements with these agencies insure prompt detection and suppression action.

Cooperative agreements with organizations such as the National Guard and Bureau of Federal Prisons provide additional sources of equipment and manpower. As a result of the excellent cooperation received from these agencies, fire fighting is done with maximum efficiency and minimum expense.

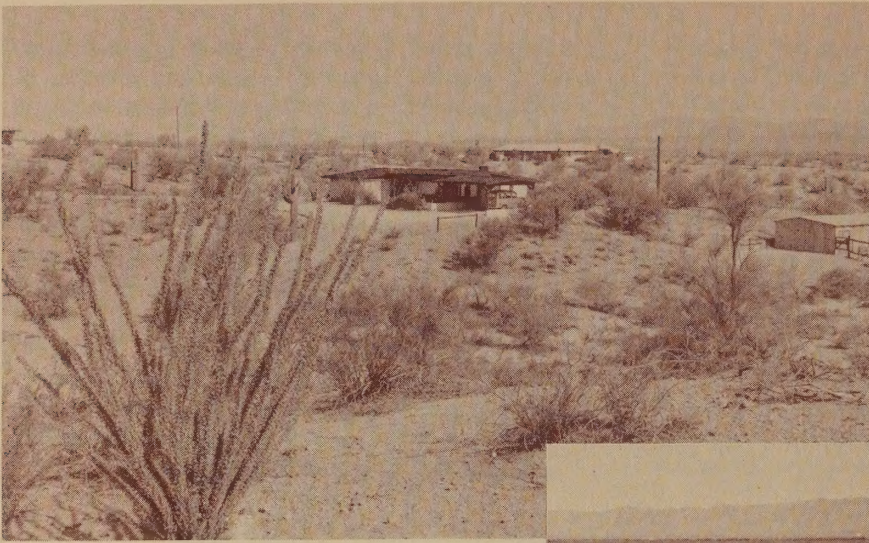
When a fire is controlled, the burned area is studied. Where conditions appear favorable, it is seeded from the air with both native and exotic grasses. Contract airplanes with specially built seed hoppers scatter seed into the fresh ashes of the burn. If moisture conditions are favorable, such seedings are usually successful.



Dead snags and barren ground mark the path of wildfire. On gentle slopes the scars can often be healed by seeding with grass as shown in these photographs of the same area. The problem is difficult on mountain slopes.



Lands



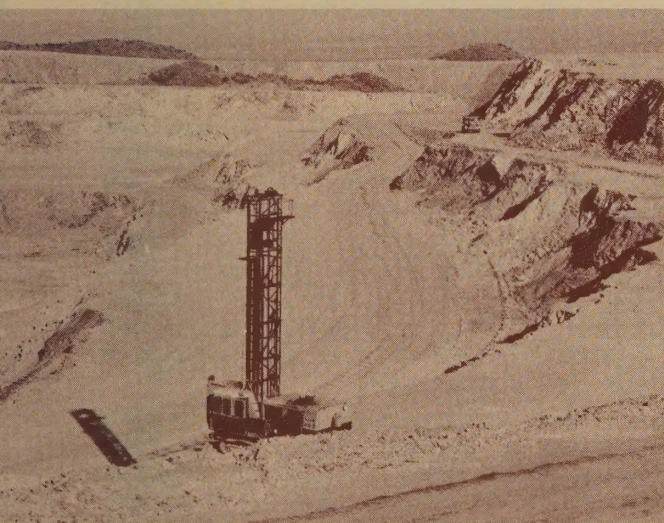
Small tract homesites such as this one near Wickenburg are important in a state with rapidly increasing population. Precious underground water is the key to the future for many Arizona croplands such as these in the Harquahala Valley.



and Minerals

The lands and minerals activity is one of the more important responsibilities of the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona. The desire by the public to own and use these resources was expressed by the filing of thousands of applications under the various land and mineral laws. Arizona with its increasing population and expanding economy still relies to a large extent on the national land reserve as a source of supply to meet its needs for present and future development.

The Division of Lands and Minerals is responsible for helping to supply these needs through investigation, classification, and appraisal of land and mineral resources. This program provides for the examination and classification of lands for their highest use or best tenure, such as grazing, farming, recreation, mineral development, homesites, and many others.



Both industry and recreation depend on the management and planning given to balancing the many uses of land. Careful planning can keep conflicts at a minimum.

Most classifications were made in connection with the Small Tract Act. This law authorizes the lease or sale of small tracts for residence, business, recreation, and community site purposes. Many attractive homes and businesses have been developed on lands in the vicinity of Phoenix, Tucson, Wickenburg, and other cities and towns in Arizona. Most tracts are made available by direct sale at public auction at fair market value of the lands.

Another well known land law was enacted 99 years ago when Abraham Lincoln signed the original Homestead Law. Homesteading is still the best known of all land laws due to the part it played in the development of the West. Changing conditions and depletion of sources of water have limited the development of new land under the Homestead Laws.

Many acres of farming land have been developed in Arizona under the provision of the Desert Land Act, another agricultural land law. This law is no longer effective in Arizona due to legal rulings regarding underground water.

A moratorium on most types of non-mineral applications and petitions for public lands was placed in effect February, 1961 for an 18 month period. This temporary suspension of the privilege of filing applications under the public land laws was to permit a review of the entire land management picture, eliminate work backlogs, and develop long term land management policies and programs.

The State of Arizona and its various agencies acquire and make use of the national land reserve for many purposes. The program for processing selection applications filed by the State of Arizona in satisfaction of the many land grants, or as indemnity for land lost within Federal reservations, was continued on a priority basis. Lands acquired by the State are being put to use for farming, grazing, mineral development, or sold for the benefit of educational institutions.

Rights-of-way for hundreds of miles of highways, roads, telephone lines, power transmission lines, oil pipe lines, and railroads were granted to governmental units, corporations, and individuals during the past year.

Thousands of tons of sand, gravel, and other materials were permitted to be removed by the State Highway Department without charge, for the construction of highways. Other mineral materials, such as clay, building stone, sand, and gravel were sold to corporations and individuals.

Special land use permits were issued to defense agencies in furtherance of American defense efforts.

Detection and elimination of trespass on the national land reserve received increased attention during 1961. A special office was established at Yuma, Arizona, to resolve trespass problems along the lower Colorado River.

The Bureau of Land Management administers the mineral leasing and mining laws on Federal Lands in Arizona. Oil and gas leasing is handled on both a competitive and non-competitive basis.

The Lands and Minerals Division is continuing the investigation of mineral lands in the Papago Indian Reservation. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the validity and ownership of all existing mining claims which will permit an orderly mineral leasing program by the Papago Tribe. The use of aircraft for spotting mining claims and mineral workings has helped in this work which is approximately 80 percent completed.

Other mineral activities included the investigation of patent applications under the United States Mining Law for gold, copper, tungsten, and other minerals. Mining claims in conflict with surface uses were examined to determine whether a discovery of minerals had been made. This phase of the minerals program is receiving a priority of action where claims have been located on developed private lands in which the minerals are owned by the United States. Invalid claims of this type are being rapidly contested by the Bureau of Land Management.

A master unit system of classification is being implemented in Arizona. This system will provide for an inventory of the National Land Reserve after which lands will be classified to accommodate public and private needs consistent with the public interest.

Recreation

The national land reserve in Arizona is making important contributions to satisfy the need for outdoor recreation in Arizona. Millions of acres are being used for extensive recreation, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and picnicking. The Taylor Grazing Act provides that the public lands will remain open and accessible for hunting and fishing.

Among these millions of acres are tracts suitable for more intensive recreational development such as parks, historic sites, scenic areas, golf courses, and rifle ranges, to name a few. An inventory of public lands having special attractions, which make them suitable for intensive public recreation use, is in progress. Lands are made available for purchase by State or local agencies under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Recent changes in the pricing arrangements permit funds to be used for development rather than for purchase of the lands. Lands for parks or other recreational purposes may be leased from BLM at the rate of 25c per acre per year, or purchased at the rate of \$2.50 per acre. The State and local governments must guarantee to maintain the lands open to the public for recreational purposes without discrimination or favor; to make no more than a reasonable charge for the use of facilities; to develop and manage the lands in accordance with an approved detailed plan; and to allow BLM to manage all other values of the land consistent with the recreational objectives of the areas.

Lands having important multiple use value are retained in Federal ownership but are made available to State or local agencies by lease, permit, or agreement.

Lands having national recreational value may be set aside by appropriate Federal agencies when in the public interest. National Parks, National Monuments, and National Recreation areas are examples of this type of reservation.

Most local governments realize the importance of outdoor recreation for their communities. Maricopa County, Arizona, illustrates the emphasis that local governments are giving to recreation. Eventually some 70,000 acres of national land reserve located within a 28-mile radius of downtown Phoenix will be included in a series of Maricopa County regional parks surrounding the projected 1980 greater urban area. The new pricing regulations make it possible for communities to acquire land and install facilities with smaller cash outlays.



Days of expensive work are saved by the accurate bounce of a micro wave signal across a deep canyon. This BLM survey crew uses a modern instrument to speed the job of land inventory.

Engineering

The Division includes cadastral surveys, design and construction, cartography, and communications. The Arizona State Office has had a complete Engineering Division since May 1, 1961. The cadastral branch operates out of the State Office. Construction projects are handled by the District Offices with staff advice, design and drafting help furnished by the State Office. The cartographic section is concerned with the preparation of plats of cadastral and mineral surveys and planimetric maps. Complete records of all cadastral surveys are on file in the State Office and are available to the public for inspection. Copies may be purchased at a nominal fee. The radio technician in the communications branch is concerned with the installation and maintenance of the Bureau's radio network over the State.

Field Surveys

"Cadastral surveys . . . create, re-establish, mark and define boundaries of tracts of land, . . . and cannot be ignored, repudiated, altered or corrected, and the boundaries created or re-established cannot be changed so long as they control rights vested in the lands affected."

Cadastral surveys of the national land reserve furnish the basis for the identification and description of tracts of land for status purposes and for the necessary governmental administration. Such surveys use the rectangular system, in which the land is divided into townships and sections. The rectangular system was authored by the Committee of the Continental Congress in 1785, under the chairmanship of Thomas

Jefferson. It was devised to enable an orderly, mathematical method for the subdivision of the public domain, which at that time amounted to nearly two billion acres. The concept of the rectangular system was unique in that it envisioned "survey before settlement."

Over 13 million acres of the national land reserve in Arizona are administered by the Bureau of Land Management; approximately 5 million acres of this land are still unsurveyed. Also, the Bureau of Land Management has the sole legal responsibility for the surveys made on an additional 11 million acres of public lands in Arizona administered by other Federal agencies.

In fiscal year 1961, original cadastral surveys in Arizona covered 104,340 acres; resurveys involved an area of 86,900 acres; 2,862 acres were completed under special surveys. These special surveys included the survey of the Eagle Eye Memorial Cemetery, and the resurvey of the Vulture City Townsite.

Survey Records

The BLM office in Phoenix has on file all of the cadastral survey records for the State. They consist of township surveys, mineral surveys, homestead surveys, and surveys for special purposes.

The specifications for current surveys are prepared by the office cadastral engineer who also supervises the preparation of the plats and field notes after the surveys are completed in the field.

Mineral surveys are processed by the BLM State Office. This includes the drafting of the final plats and the approval of the surveys. These surveys are made by surveyors examined by this office and appointed by the Director in Washington, D. C. The claimants pay these surveyors directly. During fiscal year 1961, 33 mineral surveys were approved which included 128 claims.



Where is it? This iron marker will help in locating the boundaries of a tract of land.

The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The public may inspect the records at any time during these hours and may order copies of the records. The office is located in rooms 3418 and 3426, Federal Building, 230 North First Avenue.

Many of the records are old and worn. A program has commenced to put the records on microfilm. The film will be used in a viewer-printer which can reproduce copies in a few seconds if they are desired. These improvements will help to modernize the office and speed up the delivery of copies of the official records.

Design

The Bureau of Land Management is entering a program of building multiple purpose roads on the national land reserve. These roads will facilitate administration, fire suppression, recreation, and big game management. Twenty-two thousand dollars were used for road construction during fiscal year 1961.

The Hualpai Mountain Road, started in November 1961, will open 70,000 acres of national land reserve for multiple use. The construction of conservation and range

improvement projects is covered under the heading "Range and Forest Management" in this report.

Map Making

Three million acres mapped from aerial photographs last year brought the total area mapped with BLM districts in Arizona to 16½ million acres.

Multiple use maps for management, planning, and conservation of the national land reserve are compiled as follows:

(a) From cadastral survey field notes the boundary of each section is outlined and the exact acreage obtained.

(b) From mineral surveys the boundaries of mineral claims are outlined and the acreage of each claim is computed.

(c) From aerial photographs and field surveys, rivers, washes, physical features, vegetative cover and types, recreation areas, ranches, cities, roads, fences, water developments, and other man-made features are accurately plotted onto the map grid.

(d) From Land Office records the



Surveying can be mighty warm work in desert country, especially when brush must be cleared from the line.



BLM crews still use saddle and pack stock but the 'copter is often a real time and money saver in rough, remote country.

ownership of each tract of land is obtained and is shown on the map by identifying symbol.

Maps containing the above information serve as a basis for planning and carrying out the various activities on the national land reserve in Arizona. Among these are management of the grazing resources, soil and moisture conservation, timber and woodland management, land use and disposal, and many others.

The cartographic section reproduced about 22,000 copies of maps and survey records last year. Some 15,000 copies were reproduced for public use; the remaining 7,000 copies were for the Bureau of Land Management and other government agencies.

Radio

The field radio communications system

in Arizona consists of a network of mountain top base stations, repeater stations, mobile units and portable packs. These units are F.M., two-way radios operating in the 162-174 MC band. They are relatively free from interference.

With the installation in the near future of an additional repeater station in southwest Maricopa County, coverage of the lands in the southwest part of the State will be added to the existing network which reaches from the Arizona Strip District in the northwest corner of the State to the Phoenix District in the central part, and to the Safford District in the southeast corner of the State.

The system is used for firefighting and other emergencies in addition to ready contact with range improvement personnel, cadastral survey crews, lands and minerals personnel, and others.

Administration

The Bureau of Land Management employs approximately 115 people in Arizona. Of these, 94 are headquartered in Phoenix, 9 in Safford, and 11 in St. George, Utah, headquarters for the Arizona Strip District. Most of the positions are technical. They require professionally trained men in the fields of agricultural sciences and economics, mining, civil, agricultural and cadastral engineering, together with highly trained individuals who are specialists in Federal and State laws pertaining to public lands, mineral, water and surface rights.

The Bureau is on a State operating basis. This means that with few exceptions all land actions can be taken locally in accordance with existing land laws. With authority being placed close to the line of action, BLM is able to meet the land management needs related to Arizona.

In an effort to serve the public best, BLM practice is to hire skilled, efficient people. In staffing programs, BLM looks to Arizona colleges and universities as sources of able technicians. Through seasonal and summer employment, the objective is to interest "cream of the crop" students and to urge that they take Civil Service examinations to become eligible for consideration and appointment to BLM jobs.

The Bureau of Land Management organization structure headed by the State Director is rather simple. The chart on page 22 shows the functions of the various staff and line divisions.

The Bureau of Land Management has

consistently proved itself one of Uncle Sam's leading revenue-producing agencies. Each year receipts from such enterprises as sale of public land, timber and forest products, grazing leases and permits, sale of materials, filing fees and trespass, return to the treasury an average many times the amount expended in BLM operations. The Bureau of Land Management receipts on public lands in Arizona for fiscal year 1962 have been estimated at nearly 3½ million dollars. Operating costs will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 1½ million. Share returns to the State of Arizona and to the general economy of the State are expected to increase in the future just as they have increased in the past. A large percentage of the funds appropriated for soil and moisture conservation and range improvement practices are spent with private contractors throughout the State. All construction work, such as small detention dams, water spreaders and other conservation structures, is let by bid. Small business firms are given every consideration in contracted work.

Increasing availability of salable products, due to improved management techniques, is increasing public demand for such products and for the services performed by the Bureau of Land Management. Since BLM's main function is to increase productivity of the national land reserve, the administrative function in each office is to develop employees and, through proper placement, use their skills to the utmost.

Arizona

Land Office --

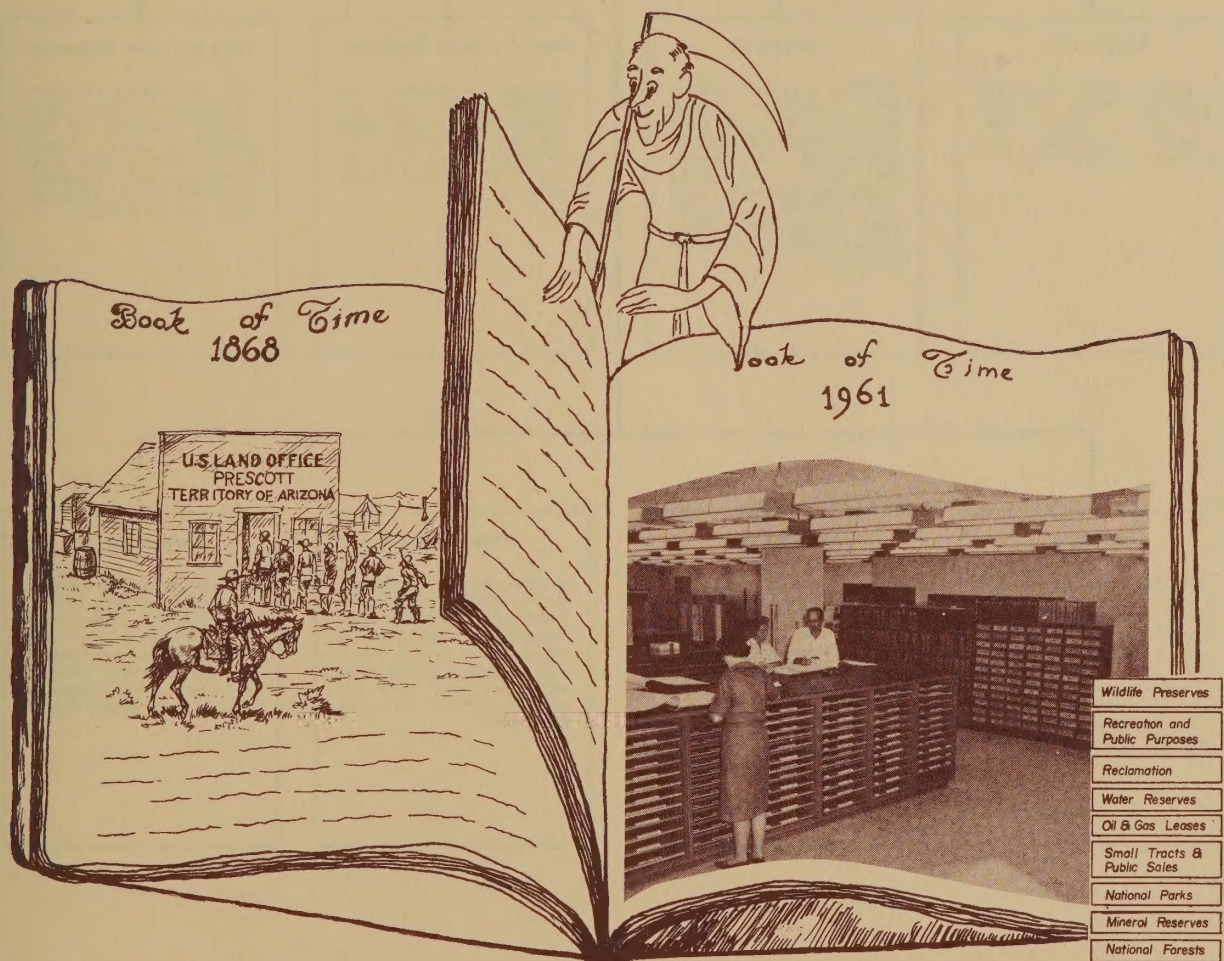
The General Land Office was set up in 1812. The first land office in Arizona Territory opened at Prescott, November 3, 1868. Others opened at Florence in 1873, Tucson in 1881, and at Phoenix in 1905. These were eventually consolidated in Phoenix, the site of the present land office. Each of the offices was primarily concerned with surveying, recording, and the disposition of public lands.

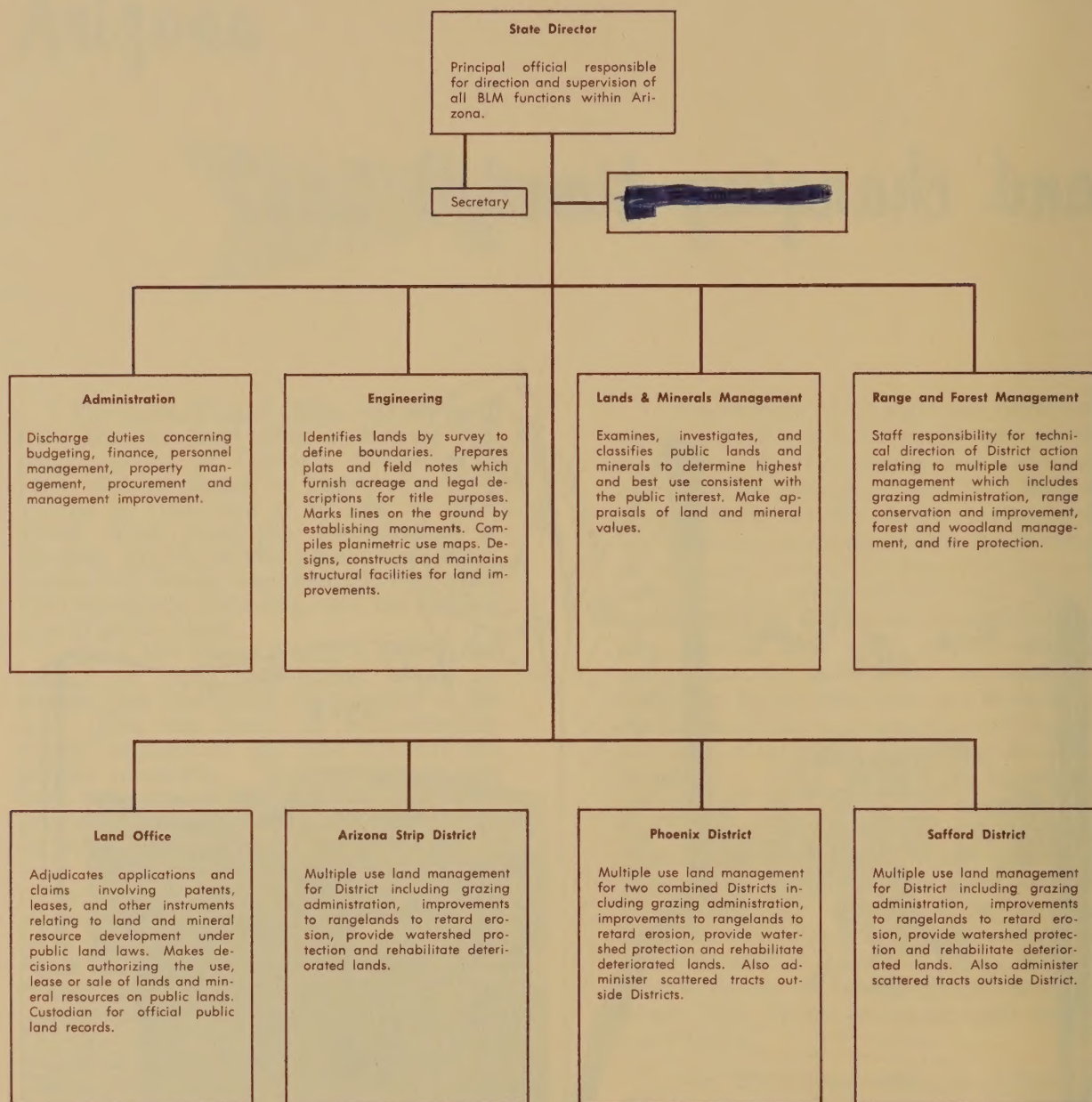
Since the young Nation's growth depended on rapid development of its resources, the pioneering day concept of the land office was based on homesteading, mineral exploration and land transfers into private ownership. National growth has been encouraged through a system of grants of lands and their resources to individuals and corporations who would develop them. Under the pioneer drive, national resources were developed and exploited at breath-taking speed. Soon all lands for which there was surface irrigation water had been transferred to private ownership. Lands with underground water were transferred to private ownership as water drilling and pumping techniques improved to permit agriculture. In some instances pumping was greater than the replacement of underground water. Wells became deeper and more expensive to operate. Then, as the State's population increased, remaining public lands were recognized as having other values. Lands which could not support irrigated crops could continue to support grazing and wildlife. They furnished land for expanding towns and cities, recreation sites for booming urban areas and lands for continuing mineral exploration and development.

The concept of multiple use developed as lands best suited for single uses passed to private title. The energy of western pioneers and the passage of time have decreed that multiple use become the national policy for those remaining public lands which do not meet present requirements for agriculture or for urban development. Within limits posed by modern day circumstances, and possible new water source developments, historic land office functions can continue. In the meantime, the husbandry, the balanced-use management, and the conservation of remaining lands takes on added importance. Thus the historic concept of the pioneer land office has changed with the times; it is passing with the days and times it served so well. The new concept is of prudent transfer of lands found suitable for transfer and of multiple-use management for the remainder. Small homesites, public recreation areas, and urban development activities are replacing homestead and desert land entries as major tasks in the Land Office.

The BLM Land Office in Arizona is moving ahead with the times. A new system of records has been installed which will enable anyone to identify the status and use of public lands in the State. The records carry information on programs of the Bureau of Land Management and of other agencies which affect any parcel. With the new system, it is no longer necessary to procure services of a "land locator." A Land Office employee is available to assist in searching and reading the records.

and changing times





Conservation Pledge

I GIVE MY
PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY -- ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE